



News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
January 27, 2010

LOCAL INJURY PREVENTION HEROES RECOGNIZED

Kansas City, MO- Safe Kids Metro KC (SKMKC) will present its 2009 Injury Prevention Awards at their Membership Meeting on Thursday, January 28, 2010 at the Unified Government Public Health Department Auditorium, 619 Ann, Kansas City, Kansas from 9:00 to 10:00 a.m. The following individuals will be recognized for their leadership in helping keep children free from injuries:

Kelli Littlefield of the Kansas City, Kansas Fire Department will receive the SERVICE IN ACTION AWARD for providing in-school safety education to KCK students.

Shannon Bernal, Child Passenger Safety (CPS) technician and educator is recognized with the PARTNER EXTRAORDINAIRE AWARD for sharing her expertise and time to ensure that children are riding safely restrained in vehicles. Shannon works in the Car Seat Program at Children's Mercy Hospitals and Clinics.

Howard Dickinson of the Kansas Highway Patrol is recognized for his work providing on-going education to the public about ways to be safe on the road and in vehicles. Howard is also a CPS technician and educator.

Deb Ridgway will receive the INNOVATION AWARD for bringing together bike and pedestrian safety advocates and creating the Share the Road Safety Task Force. Deb is currently the Bicycle & Pedestrian Coordinator for the City of Kansas City, Missouri.

Susie Girten, RN, from St. Luke's Hospital has been working hard to get local hospitals to become a "Safe Haven" to ensure that relinquished infants are left with persons who can provide the immediate care needed for their safety and well-being. She will receive the TURNING PASSION INTO POLICY AWARD.

The program for the meeting will be discussion of effective approaches to get state governments to pass primary seat belt laws. This topic is high on the agendas of Safe Kids Metro KC and many other advocacy groups. Sherri Cannon, Regional Program Manager of the local National Highway Traffic Safety Administration office, will preside.

The goal of Safe Kids Metro KC is to protect children under the age of 15 living in the greater Kansas City area from their number one killer -- unintentional injury. SKMKC is proudly led by Mother & Child Health Coalition. For more information, contact the program coordinator, Deb Bumgardner at (816) 283-6242 ext. 244 or Anne Biswell at (816) 806-9929 (cell).

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Mother & Child Health Coalition promotes the health of mothers and children through community planning, education, advocacy and collaboration with organizations addressing infant mortality, immunization, childhood obesity, maternal health and child safety. Interviews are available upon request.